Sri Veda Narayana Swamy Temple, (also known as the Matsya Narayana Temple), Nagalapuram, Chittor district, Andhra Pradesh

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Info is given under following headings: Location, address, phone number...etc., how to get there, greatness of this temple, architecture, Main deity here and subdeities, daily poojas and rituals and their charges, special poojas, sevas and their charges, festivals, facilities for devotees such as accommodation etc,, donation info, bank acct numbers etc.., nearby Temples, nearby places of tourist interest, nearby budget hotels, .any other info...etc

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Sri Veda Narayana Swamy Temple (also known as Matsya Narayana Temple or Vedanarayana Swamy Temple) is an ancient Vaishnava temple in Andhra Pradesh, dedicated to Lord Vishnu in his rare Matsya Avatar (fish incarnation), one of the few such temples in India. Managed by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) since 1988, it follows Vaikhanasa Agama rituals and is renowned for its Vijayanagara-era architecture and the miraculous Surya Pooja (sun rays adorning the idol).

Location and Address

Village/Town: Nagalapuram (Nagalapuram Mandal), Chittoor (Chittor) district, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Full Address: Sri Veda Narayana Swamy Temple, Sannidhi Street, Nagalapuram, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh - 517589.

Phone Numbers: +91 98485 69581 (temple contact); Alternate: 085762 70282 (from some sources). For TTD-related queries, use TTD helpline 155257 (24/7) or temple-specific 0877-2264588.
PIN: 517589.

How to Get There

By Road: Well-connected via highways; frequent APSRTC buses from Tirupati (direct services available). TTD package tours from Tirupati include this temple (e.g., surrounding temples tour: AC ₹350–500, Non-AC ₹250–350 per person, including special darshan; contact 0877-2289123 or 9848007033 for bookings). Taxis/cabs from Tirupati (~₹1500–2500 round trip) or Chennai.

By Rail: Nearest station – Puttur (~30 km) or Tirupati (~60–70 km).

By Air: Tirupati Airport (~70 km) or Chennai International Airport (~100–120 km).

Distance References: ~60–70 km southeast of Tirupati, ~30 km from Puttur, ~95 km from Chittoor, ~70–80 km from Chennai.

Greatness of This Temple

This is one of the rare temples where Lord Vishnu is worshipped as Matsya Avatar (fish form), symbolizing the rescue of the Vedas from demon Somaka (who stole them from Brahma and hid in the ocean). Lord Vishnu retrieved the Vedas, defeated the demon, and restored cosmic order/knowledge — hence "Veda Narayana" (Savior/Protector of the Vedas).
The temple is considered highly auspicious for wisdom, education, knowledge protection, obstacle removal, and spiritual upliftment.
Its uniqueness lies in the **annual Surya Pooja miracle** (sun rays fall on the idol's feet, navel, and head over three days in March, seen as Surya's adoration). It attracts Vaishnavites, pilgrims from Tirupati/Chennai, and those seeking rare avatar darshan.

Architecture

Built/renovated in the 15th century during Vijayanagara Emperor Sri Krishna Deva Raya's reign (at his mother Nagamba's behest; town named after her). Fine specimen of Dravidian/Vijayanagara style with grand gopurams (towers), vast prakaras (courtyards), intricate carvings of gods/goddesses on walls, and beautiful gardens. The sanctum faces west; idol in Matsya form (upper half human with shankha/chakra, lower half fish-like, no feet visible; Sudarshana Chakra in "prayoga" ready-to-release pose). Sun rays phenomenon highlights architectural precision.

Main Deity and Sub-Deities

Main Deity: Sri Veda Narayana Swamy (Matsya Narayana) with consorts Sri Devi and Bhu Devi.

Sub-Deities/Shrines: Sri Vedavalli Thayar (consort), Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy, Sri Veeranjaneya Swamy / Bhakta Anjaneya Swamy, Sri Sita Lakshmana Sameta Ramulavari Temple, other Vaishnava sub-shrines (e.g., Lakshmi Varaha Swamy, Venugopala Swamy, Hayagriva in some references).

Daily Poojas and Rituals (Timings)

Timings vary slightly; confirm via TTD or phone (general consensus):

Temple Open: 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM (or 8:00 AM–1:00 PM) and 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM (or up to 8:30–9:00 PM; extended on Saturdays/utsava days).

Daily Sevas/Rituals (approximate; many free/Sarvadarshanam):

- Suprabhatam: 6:00–6:30 AM
- Thomala Seva: 6:30–7:00 AM
- Sahasranamarchana: 7:00–7:30 AM

- Sarvadarshanam (free): 8:00 AM–12:00 PM / 4:00 PM–6:00 PM onward
- Abhishekam: Fridays (~8:00 AM for main deity/Goddess); Sundays for Anjaneya.
- Darshan: Mostly Sarvadarshanam (free); special sevas at counters (limited online booking via TTD site).

Special Poojas, Sevas, and Charges

Abhishekam/Thomala Seva: Often free or nominal (check at temple counter; TTD sevas like Sahasranamarchana may have small charges).

No detailed public list of charges found (many daily poojas free); special utsavams/sevas during festivals.

Online booking: Via TTD portal (https://tirupatibalaji.ap.gov.in or similar) for some sevas.

Festivals

Surya Pooja / Rathasaptami: March (around Sukla Dwadasi-Trayodashi-Chaturdashi); sun rays miracle for 3 days; major utsavam.

Brahmotsavam/Pavitrotsavam: Annual (e.g., November/December noted in past).

Other: Vaikuntha Ekadasi, Rama Navami, etc.

Facilities for Devotees (Accommodation, etc.)

Limited on-site (basic; TTD may provide simple facilities).

Better accommodation in Tirupati (TTD guest houses like Srinivasam, Vishnu Nivasam; book via TTD site) or Puttur (hotels/lodges).

Temple provides Annaprasadam (free meals) during visits/utsavams.

TTD package tours include transport/darshan.

Donation Info and Bank Details

Donations to TTD (covers this temple): Online via https://tirupatibalaji.ap.gov.in/#/edonation or Demand Draft/International Money Order to "Executive Officer, TTD, Tirupati-517501".

General Hundi/general schemes; no specific separate bank account for this temple (falls under TTD trusts).

Contact Donor Cell: dyeodonorcell.ttd@tirumala.org or 0877-2263001 / Centralized Donor Management Cell 0877-2263472.

Income tax benefits available for eligible schemes.

Nearby Temples

- Sri Kariya Manikya Swamy Temple (Nagari)
- Sri Kasi Visweswara Swamy Temple (Bugga)
- Sri Pallikondeswara Swamy Temple (Surutupalli)
- Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy Temple (Narayanavanam)
- Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy Temple (Appalayagunta)

Nearby Places of Tourist Interest

Nagalapuram Falls / Ubbalamadugu Falls (scenic waterfalls nearby; great for nature lovers). Hills, forests, and river (tributary of Swarnamukhi) for picnics/treks.

Nearby Budget Hotels

Limited in Nagalapuram (basic lodges/homestays near temple/bus stand).

Better budget options in Tirupati (e.g., TTD-run or private lodges/hotels ₹500–2000/night) or Puttur.

For Tirupati stays: Vishnu Nivasam, Srinivasam, or nearby budget hotels.

This serene, powerful Matsya kshetra is a hidden gem near Tirupati — ideal for Vishnu devotees seeking rare avatar blessings and natural beauty.

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Ref: Google Gemini

In Andhra Pradesh, the most prominent temple dedicated to the Matsya avatar (the first incarnation of Lord Vishnu) is the Sri Veda Narayana Swamy Temple, also commonly known as the Matsya Narayana Temple.
It is located in Nagalapuram, Chittoor district (about 70 km from Tirupati). This temple is unique because it is one of the very few in India where Lord Vishnu is worshipped in his fish form.

Key Highlights of the Temple

* **The Deity**: The main idol depicts Lord Vishnu with the upper body of a human and the lower body of a fish. He is seen holding the Sudarshana Chakra in a "Prayoga" (ready to release) posture, which is rare. He is flanked by his consorts, Sridevi and Bhudevi.
* **The Legend**: According to the Puranas, a demon named Somakudu stole the Four Vedas from Lord Brahma and hid them in the deep ocean. Lord Vishnu took the Matsya Avatar to defeat the demon and retrieve the holy scriptures. After the battle, the Lord is said to have rested here.
* **Architectural Heritage**: While the temple has ancient roots (possibly Chola or Pallava), the current grand structure was largely built by the Vijayanagara Emperor Sri Krishna Deva Raya in the 16th century in honor of his mother, Nagamba (hence the name Nagalapuram).

The "Surya Puja" Phenomenon

The temple is world-famous for an astronomical and architectural marvel that occurs once a year during the Surya Puja Utsavam (typically in March).

For three consecutive days, the rays of the setting sun travel through the temple entrance, passing through various mandapams for a distance of about 600 feet, to illuminate the deity in the sanctum:
* Day 1: The rays fall on the feet of the Lord.
* Day 2: The rays fall on the navel (chest).
* Day 3: The rays fall on the forehead.

Visitor Information

* **Management**: The temple is maintained by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD).

* **Timings**: * Morning: 6:00 AM – 1:00 PM

* Evening: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

* **How to Reach:** It is well-connected by bus from Tirupati (70 km) and Chennai (75 km). The nearest railway station is Puttur (about 30 km away).

Other "Matsya" Locations

While Nagalapuram is the primary historical site, you may also come across:

* Chinna Ganjam (Bapatla Dist): Known for a smaller Matsya Narayana temple.

* Chinmaya Tarangini (Chennai): A beautiful modern open-air Matsya Narayana temple on the ECR road, often visited by pilgrims traveling through AP.

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Specific dates for the Surya Puja festival in March 2026:

In 2026, the major solar and spiritual festivals at the Matsya Narayana (Sri Veda Narayana Swamy) Temple in Nagalapuram are scheduled for the following dates:

1. Surya Puja Utsavam 2026

Dates: March 24 – March 28, 2026 This is the most famous 5-day festival where the sun's rays travel 600 feet into the temple to worship the deity. The peak "astronomical wonder" occurs on three specific days:

* Day 1 (March 25): Sun rays fall on the Feet of the Lord.
* Day 2 (March 26): Sun rays fall on the Navel/Chest.
* Day 3 (March 27): Sun rays fall on the Forehead.

* **Timings**: The phenomenon usually occurs between 5:30 PM and 6:30 PM just before sunset.

2. Matsya Jayanti 2026

Date: March 21, 2026 (Chaitra Shukla Tritiya)
While the Surya Puja is a major event, Matsya Jayanti is the actual birthday of the Matsya Avatar. Special rituals like Garuda Vahana Seva and Snapana Thirumanjanam (holy bath) are performed by the TTD on this day.

3. Ratha Saptami 2026

Date: January 25, 2026 As a temple dedicated to the Sun's interaction with Lord Vishnu, Ratha Saptami is celebrated here with great fervor. Special prayers start early in the morning during Arunodaya (dawn).

Tips for your visit:

* **Crowds**: The Surya Puja days (March 25-27) attract massive crowds. It is best to reach the temple by 4:00 PM to secure a spot where you can view the rays.

* **Weather**: March in Chittoor district can be quite warm, so plan your travel for the early morning or late afternoon.

* **Accommodation**: Since Nagalapuram is a small town, most devotees stay in Tirupati (60 km away) and take a day trip.

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AI Overview:

The Sri Vedanarayana Swamy Temple, located in Nagalapuram, Andhra Pradesh (approx. 65-70 km from Tirupati), is a 15th-century Vijayanagara-style temple built by Krishna Devaraya. It is renowned for featuring Lord Vishnu in his Matsya (fish) avatar, holding the Sudarshana Chakra, and is managed by TTD.

Key Highlights and Information:

- **Deity & Significance:** The main deity is Matsya Narayana (Veda Narayana) accompanied by Sridevi and Bhudevi, believed to be where Vishnu retrieved the Vedas from the demon Somakudu.
- **Surya Puja:** A unique annual event where sunlight falls directly on the main idol for three days.
- **Architecture:** Built in the Vijayanagara style, it is a historic site dedicated to the first of the ten Avatars of Vishnu.

- **Location & Access:** Situated in Chittoor District, easily accessible by road from Tirupati (65-70 km) or Puttur (30 km).
- **Visiting Info:** The temple is typically open from 6:00 AM to 7:30 PM.

Note: Some reviews suggest checking for ongoing renovations, which might affect darshan timings.

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Ref: tirupatitirumalainfo.com

Nagalapuram Temple History

Sri Veda Narayanaswami temple is located in Nagalapuram, 60 km southeast of Tirupati. It is believed that Lord Sri Maha Vishnu, in the form of Matsya, killed the Rakshash (demon) Somakudu here, and retrieved the Vedas from the latter. Tirupati Temple Tours

The sanctum sanctorium houses an image of the Matsya form of Vishnu, with Shridevi and Bhudevi on either side. A peculiar feature of the idol is that it holds the Sudarshana Chakra in prayoga (ready for release). The temple was constructed by Sri Krishnadeva Raya, the Vijayanagara emperor, and is a fine specimen of the Vijayanagara style of architecture.

The most important annual festivals in this temple are Brahmotsavam, and Surya Puja along with the Float festival, conducted on the 12th, 13th and 14th days of the month of Phalguna. The annual Brahmotsavam is conducted in the month of Jyeshtha.

During the Tirupati Daily tour package organised by APTDC this temple would be covered along with Narayanavanam temple.

Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh, 517589.

How To Reach

- Bus
- Cab

Nagalapuram Map Location

Temple Timings and Sevas

Morning: 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Evening: 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Break: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Daily Sevas	Timings
Suprabhatam	6:00 AM to 6:30 AM
Thomala Seva	6:30 AM to 7:00 AM
Sahasranamarchana	7:00 AM to 7:30 AM
1st Bell	7:30 AM to 8:00 AM
Sarvadarshanam	8:00 AM to 10:00 AM
2nd Bell	10:00 AM to 10:30 AM
Sarvadarshanam	10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon
Sarvadarshanam	4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Thomala Seva	6:00 PM to 6:30 PM
Rathri Kainkaryam	6:30 PM to 7:00 PM
Sarvadarshanam	7:00 PM to 7:45 PM
Ekantha Seva	7:45 PM to 8:00 PM

Online Seva Booking

You can book the seva tickets online at –
https://ttdevasthanams.ap.gov.in/home/dashboard

Distance

It is located at 60KM from Tirupati Bus Stand. Direct Buses are available from Tirupati and Chennai.

Address

Sri Veda Narayana Swamy Temple, Sannidhi Street, Nagalapuram, Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh, 517589.

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Photos

@TheSanatanUday

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Videos

Sri Vedanarayana Swamy Temple, Nagalapuram (2.30 min):

https://youtu.be/WwYVphRChMA?si=zvhRdl405anhcByl

Nagalapuram temple history (5 min):

https://youtu.be/gTnBIFFUlas?si=EbIIeVAYc_2A_AfN

Vedanarayana Swamy temple, Nagalapuram - Teerthayatra (13 min):

https://youtu.be/zWsoGTWy1tg?si=gUI3jCYutQRHb2FV

Vedanarayana Swamy Temple tour (4 min):

https://youtu.be/ZEms76N-jPo?si=zTRGmIf0dmPNDmHa

Sri Vedanarayana Swamy Temple - Vanitha TV(8 min):

https://youtu.be/xX56A9bZLk8?si=7n3dK1iLTgkyJKez

Vedanarayana Swamy Temple - Ugadi (11 min):

https://youtu.be/h7gMCXgNS-Y?si=8fpYDgoSrdt1w2Gf

Sri Vedanarayana Swamy Temple, Nagalapuram - PuthuYugam TV(40 min):

https://youtu.be/GDTvjvpkFcI?si=nupz-XA0h30LuUcg

TTD temple - Vedanarayana (Matsya Narayana) Temple, Nagalapuram (7 min):

https://youtu.be/W-83aI_DbGA?si=1qqv0VsmMqXBnpcI

Vedanarayana Swamy Temple - vlog (4 min):

https://youtu.be/h4SGMPCWEKg?si=zySG9O80-fVIiDQU

Nagalapuram Vedanarayana Swamy Temple (8 min):

https://youtu.be/lF4xYLh1-Es?si=0cJhoteu_0rEgh52

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
January 24, 2026
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